

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05 L-02

/060 W

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R 130854Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0589

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: UPI INTERVIEW WITH MNLF LEADER

1. UPI STORY DATELINED SINGAPORE FEBRUARY 11 BY ROWLINSON CARTER CONTAINS INTERVIEW WITH UNNAMED MEMBER OF MORE NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT WHICH GIVES POSSIBLY VALUABLE IF ONE-SIDED ACCOUNT OF RECENT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN GOP AND MNLF LEADERS IN JIDDA. CARTER, WHO WE UNDERSTAND IS BRITISH CAMERMAN FOR UPI TELEVISION NEWS, WAS MEMBER OF THREE-MAN TEAM WHICH VISITED REBELS BEHIND THE LINES IN MINDANAO IN MID-DECEMBER AND WROTE HIGHLY SYMPATHETIC FEATURE STORY WHICH HAS BEEN USED BY REBELS TO PROPAGANDIZE THEIR CAUSE. IT OBVIOUS THAT HIS CONTACTS AND RAPPORT WITH MNLF ARE EXCELLENT.

2. AMAZINGLY ENOUGH, TRUNCATED VERSION OF INTERVIEW (MINUS SOME DEROGATORY REFERENCES TO GOPXUT PRESERVING GIST OF ORIGINAL) HAS BEEN CARRIED IN MANILA BULLETIN TODAY.

3. FOR SINGAPORE: CARTER REPORTEDLY BASED SINGAPORE. IF YOU DEEM FEASIBLE, WOULD BE MOST GRATEFUL FOR ANY FURTHER DETAILS THAT CARTER MIGHT PROVIDE IN CONFIDENCE,
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INCLUDING NAME OF MNLF LEADER WHO GAVE FEBRUARY 11 INTER-

VIEW. CARTER'S PERSONAL VIEWS ON MOTIVATION AND ORGANIZATION OF TOP MNLF LEADERSHIP WOULD ALSO BE MOST INTERESTING IF RPT IF HE WILLING TO SHARE THEM WITH YOU.

4. FOR DEPARTMENT: ELEVENTH PARAGRAPH OF INTERVIEW (WHICH WE ASSUME AVAILABLE IN WASHINGTON) REFERS TO SO-CALLED MNLF "CONCESSION" CONTAINED IN "ARTICLE 3 OF THEIR PROPOSALS." WE UNAWARE OF MNLF PROPOSAL (PUBLIC OR OTHERWISE) WHICH RESEMBLES THIS (OR CONTAINS NUMBERED PARAGRAPHS.) WOULD APPRECIATE FULL TEXT OF ANY SUCH PROPOSAL IF AVAILABLE.
SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARAMILITARY FORCES, PRESS CONFERENCES, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MANILA01956
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750053-0604
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750247/aaaabplg.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <23 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UPI INTERVIEW WITH MNLF LEADER
TAGS: PFOR, RP, MNLF
To: SINGAPORE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006